comparative figures are not available in the studies indicating that artificials colours, pesticides and insecticides are increasing in our every day foods.

The ICMR carried out a multi-centric study on surveillance of food contaminants during 1986-91 and published a report in 1993. The report was however, withdrawn in 1994 due to deficiency in the methodology adopted.

On the basis of the advice of the experts, the permissible limits of food additives and pesticides have been reviewed from time to time. The Ministry of Agriculture has also constituted expert committees to review the health of safety of different pesticides and banned/restricted use of some of the pesticides. Keeping in view the residue of pesticides in different components including foods items, the Government of India is advocating Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which *inter alia* includes the cultural, mechanical biological and need based judicious use of pesticides, use of bio-pesticides banning/phasing out the most persistent organochlorine group of pesticides, educating the farmers on judicious use of pesticides and observance of waiting period, encouraging organic farming etc.

Food adulteration

1322. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that despite a series of regulatory rules, adulteration in food has assumed a high degree of sophastication; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to arrest this trend?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) As per information made available by the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/Union Territories who are responsible for the implementation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Rules made thereunder in the country, the overall percentage of adulteration detected during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000 are 8.11, 9.21 and 10.73 respectively.

(b) (i) Randum Samples of various articles of food are taken by the Prevention of Food Adulteration Enforcement Authorities of the States/Union Territories to ensure the quality of the food stuff manufactured and sold in the markets.

(ii) Various functionaries working in the States/UTs under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, are being provided necessary orientation and training by the Central Government to update their knowledge and skill on different aspects of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Programmes.

(iii) Infrastructural and laboratory facilities at the Centre and in States/UTs are being augmented under the Capacity Building Project.

Nutritional standards for women

1323. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the World Bank report 60 per cent of women in the country are anaemic;

(b) if so, the measures Government are taking to improve the nutrition standards and well being of women;

(c) the details of various projects in hand for improving nutrition standards and well being of women in the country during the last five years, State-wise; and

(d) the budgetary allotment made for this sector during the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) As per the World Bank Report Wasting Away—'The Crisis of Malnutrition in India, 60 per cent of Indian women are anaemic. However, according to the National Family Health Survey, 1998-99,51.8% of women are anaemic.

(b) and (c) In order to improve the nutritional standards and well being of women, Government have initiated several measures. Some of the important measures are given in the enclosed Statement-I (See below).